

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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APPROVED BY C:HSOENNENFELDT
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NODIS
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SONNENFELDT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: YOUR TALKS WITH THE BRITISH

1. ITALY. RAMSBOTHAM CAME IN YESTERDAY ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CROSLAND TO SAY THAT IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT DISCUSSIONS AMONG US (I.E. SIMON'S TALKS IN PARIS), BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN ROME HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TELL ANDREOTTI THAT THE MORE STRINGENT THE ITALIAN ECONOMIC PROGRAM THE EASIER IT WILL BE TO OBTAIN EXTERNAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT. IN RESPONSE TO RAMSBOTHAM'S QUESTION WHAT WE WERE PLANNING TO DO I TOLD HIM OF POSSIBLE YEO TRIP. MEANWHILE, ANDREOTTI HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE YEO FRIDAY OR SATURDAY IN ROME AND YOU MAY WANT TO TELL CROSLAND THAT THIS IS NOW ON TRACK. YEO IS IN TOUCH WITH HIS WESTERN COLLEAGUES. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, HEARD NOTHING FURTHER ABOUT A DE GUIRINGAUD VISIT TO ROME SINCE FRENCH DECIDED NOT TO HAVE JOINT US-FRENCH MISSION. MEANWHILE, ALSO, FOREIGN AND FINANCE MINISTERS OF THE NINE MET IN BRUSSELS LAST MONDAY AND THERE WERE PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH STAMATI ON WHICH
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WE DO NOT YET HAVE READOUT. FRENCH, BRITISH AND GERMANS

ALL EXPECT TO PURSUE THIS SUBJECT WITH YOU AT QUADRIPARTITE MEETING IN NEW YORK NEXT WEEK. I AM SOMEWHAT CONCERNED THAT FINANCIAL TYPES, IN PUSHING ITALIANS ONTO FIRM ANTI-INFLATIONARY COURSE AND THUS OPENING WAY FOR IMF ASSISTANCE, MAY IGNORE UNDER-THE-TABLE BARGAINS BETWEEN ANDREOTTI AND COMMUNISTS WHICH ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY REQUIRED FOR AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM AND WILL MAKE CPI EVER MORE DE FACTO GOVERNING PARTNER. IT IS THE WELL-KNOWN DILEMMA WHICH MAY NOT BE SOLVABLE; BUT WE SHOULD AT LEAST NOT BE BLIND TO IT AND YOU MAY WANT TO RAISE IT AGAIN WITH CROSLAND/CALLAGHAN.

2. BRITISH TANK GUN. THERE IS MOUNTING BRITISH OFFICIAL BITTERNESS ABOUT GETTING SQUEEZED OUT OF US-GERMAN TANK DEAL. RAMSBOTHAM TOLD ME WITH ANNOYANCE BORDERING ON ANGER THAT RUMSFELD AND ELLSWORTH HAD LED HIM TO BELIEVE DURING MEETING IN JULY THAT BRITISH GUN WOULD BE GIVEN FAIR SHAKE. IN THE EVENT, HE SAID, BRITISH WERE GIVEN SOME TWO DAYS TO MAKE THEIR CASE BEFORE US AND GERMANS DECIDED TO PROCEED. YOU MAY GET A BLAST ON THIS SINCE EMOTIONS ARE APPARENTLY BEGINNING TO RUN HIGH IN WHITEHALL. I THINK THE BEST YOU CAN DO IS LISTEN. I HAVE TOLD ELLSWORTH, WHO ACKNOWLEDGES SOMETHING LIKE WHAT RAMSBOTHAM TOLD ME, THAT THEY SHOULD TRY TO SQUARE THEMSELVES WITH RAMSBOTHAM. (THE TANK DEAL IS IN TROUBLE IN CONGRESS, NOT OVER THE BRITISH ASPECT BUT BECAUSE OF COSTS AND DELAYS ENGENDERED BY COOPERATION WITH THE GERMANS. ARMY GENERALS HAVE TESTIFIED ABOUT THEIR OPPOSITION TO SECDEF'S COURSE, THOUGH HAIG, WHO IS NOT TESTIFYING IN CONGRESS ON THIS OR OTHER MATTERS, SUPPORTS RUMSFELD ON STANDARDIZATION GROUNDS. RUMSFELD FAILED TO APPEAR BEFORE STRATTON WHEN INVITED AND MAY BE SUBPOENAED.)

3. YUGOSLAVIA. RAMSBOTHAM ALSO TOLD ME THAT ELLSWORTH HAS SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT BRITISH SHOULD DO WHAT THEY CAN TO KEEP MILITARY RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVS ACTIVE WHILE WE HAVE OUR TIME OF TROUBLES WITH BELGRADE. ELLSWORTH HAD EXPECTED TO MEET WITH YUGOSLAV CHIEF OF STAFF WHILE LATTER WAS IN TRANSIT THROUGH MIAMI FROM LATIN AMERICA TO BELGRADE. BUT STOPOVER WAS CANCELLED AFTER CROATIAN HYJACKING INCIDENT. YUGOSLAVS HAVE BEEN DRAGGING THEIR FEET ON LIST
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OF AVAILABLE SUPPLIES WHICH WE HAVE SUBMITTED TO THEM. WHILE ELLSWORTH SHOULD HAVE CHECKED WITH US BEFORE TALKING TO RAMSBOTHAM, HIS SUGGESTION IS IN FACT A GOOD ONE SINCE WESTERN INTERESTS, WHATEVER THE PRESENT TURBULENCE, HAVE NOT CHANGED. THIS ENTIRE SUBJECT, ALSO, WILL BE ON QUADRIPARTITE AGENDA NEXT WEEK IN NEW YORK.

4. MBFR. OUR REPRESENTATIVES ARE MEETING WITH BRITISH

AND GERMANS IN LONDON WHILE YOU ARE THERE TO AGREE ON
TACTICAL COURSE REGARDING FRENCH ALONG LINES DISCUSSED
IN LAST VERIFICATION PANEL. HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, MEETING AGENDA, BRIEFING MATERIALS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE235182
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HSONNENFELDT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: OA
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840105-0223, N760007-0212
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760931/aaaabafm.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: YOUR TALKS WITH THE BRITISH
TAGS: OVIP, OGEN, US, UK, IT, YO, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006